



News for Immediate Release

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Water Education Foundation, DWR,
Reclamation Board Host Flood Conference

SACRAMENTO -- The Water Education Foundation, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and The Reclamation Board of California will present a conference on California's flood policy in Sacramento on Friday, July 27 in the Holiday Inn at 300 J Street, Sacramento.

Lester Snow, Director of the Department of Water Resources, will give the welcoming address at 8 a.m., setting the stage for discussions of topics including the Katrina disaster and flood control strategies in the Netherlands and case studies from the Missouri River and coastal Louisiana.

Entitled "California's Flood Policy: How Safe is Safe," the free conference is drawing international experts from a July 24-26 Sacramento meeting of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME). A summary of discussions at the SAME conference and recent proceedings of the American Society of Civil Engineers will be given by Richard Reinhart of MBK Engineers, a Sacramento-based consulting engineering firm.

A case study on the Netherlands will be presented by Senator Sybe Schaap, President of the Dutch Association of Water Boards. Holland is an international leader in the field of flood safety and flood prevention engineering.

Retired U.S. Army Brigadier General Gerry Galloway, author of a major national report on flood policy 15 years ago, will give attendees a case study of the Missouri River. The Missouri is one of the nation's longest flood-prone rivers.

An update on coastal Louisiana flood management activities is next, given by R. King Milling, Chairman of the Louisiana Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Restoration and Conservation. Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans flooding in 2005 focused international attention on flood prevention needs in Louisiana.

At 10:15 a.m., a panel of policy experts will analyze what relevance these diverse case studies may have for California.

Stuart Leavenworth, Associate Editor of the Sacramento Bee, will moderate the panel. Members will include: Assembly member Lois Wolk, 8th Assembly District, an author of water and flood policy legislation; State Senator Mike Machado, 5th Senate District, a member of the Senate's water and natural resources policy committee; Supervisor Roger Dickinson, County of Sacramento; Tim Coyle, Senior Vice President for Governmental Affairs, California Building Industry Association, and Ron Stork, Senior Policy Advocate, Friends of the River.

The Water Education Foundation (Foundation) is a private sector, non-partisan educational foundation, based in Sacramento. The Department of Water Resources is active in flood policy most directly through its Division of Flood Management. The Reclamation Board has flood policy responsibility for California's Central Valley region.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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